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Serial Number: 10/760238
10/760228-
Application Filed: January 21, 2004
Applicant: Kia Silverbrook, Norman Michael Berry, Garry Raymond Jackson & Akira Nakazawa
Application Title: Printhead Assembly With Combined Securing And Mounting Arrangement For Components
Examiner/GAU: Brian J Goldberg 2861
Dated: July 14, 2006
At: Balmain, NSW
Docket No. MPA20US

REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Final Office Action of May 23, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the following Remarks.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of pending claims 1-7 is not disclosed by previously cited Silverbrook, for at least the following reasons.

In the rejection text and the Response to Arguments section of the final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Silverbrook discloses the following features of pending independent claim 1:

- (a) "at least one printhead module (10 of figure 2)";
- (b) "a support member (28 of Fig 8) supporting and carrying the printing fluid for the at least two printhead integrated circuits";
- (c1) "a casing (14 of Fig 3) removably supporting at least one mounting element (lower portion of Fig 8)"; or
- (c2) "a casing (28 of Fig 8) in which the at least one printhead module is removably mounted";
- (d1) "a clamping arrangement (94 and curved edge of 14 of Fig 2) for removably clamping the at least one printhead module to the casing"; or

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(d2) "a clamp mounted to the casing (44 of Fig 6)"; and

(e) "the printhead module 10 can be taken to mean the entire length shown in figure 2 to satisfy the claimed printhead module".

From these assertions, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is improperly selectively interchanging the printhead assembly 10 and the printhead modules 12 of Silverbrook in order to find all of the elements of the claimed printhead assembly. This is because, in (a), (c1), (d1) and (e) above, the Examiner is asserting that the printhead assembly 10 of Silverbrook equates to the claimed printhead module since elements "14" and "94" are elements of the printhead assembly 10, whilst in (b), (c2) and (d2) above, the Examiner is asserting that the printhead modules 12 of Silverbrook equate to the claimed printhead module since elements "28" and "44" are elements of the printhead modules 12.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that based on the disclosure of Silverbrook only one or the other of 'element 10' and 'element 12' of Silverbrook can be considered to be a printhead module, not both interchangeably so as to meet the claimed limitations. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted (for at least the reasons discussed below) that:

(i) if elements 10 and 12 are considered separately, not all of the claimed limitations are met; and

(ii) even if elements 10 and 12 are improperly considered interchangeably in the manner asserted by the Examiner, not all of the claimed limitations are met.

Regarding (i)

If element 12 is considered to alone equate to the claimed printhead module, then Silverbrook does not disclose or suggest arranging each printhead module 12 with "at least two printhead integrated circuits", as is required by pending independent claim 1 and as is admitted by the Examiner, such that not all of the claimed limitations are met.

On the other hand, if element 10 is considered to alone equate to the claimed printhead module, then Silverbrook does not disclose or suggest "drive electronics" and a "casing" which are separate from the printhead assembly 10, as is required by pending independent claim 1. This is because, the drive transistor, data connections, TAB film 22 and flexible PCB 54, and the chassis 14 of Silverbrook, asserted by the Examiner as respectively constituting the drive electronics and casing of the claimed invention, are clearly disclosed by Silverbrook as being part of the printhead assembly 10 itself (see col. 2, lines 6-8 and col. 3, lines 45-65 of Silverbrook).

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Accordingly, if the printhead assembly 10 is considered to be the printhead module of the claimed invention, further disclosure of drive electronics (such as an external controller, which the Examiner clearly states is not disclosed by Silverbrook) and a casing (the only disclosure in Silverbrook being that the chassis 14 can be customised for printhead mounting at col. 5, lines 33-35), is not provided in Silverbrook, such that not all of the claimed limitations are met.

Regarding (ii)

If elements 10 and 12 are improperly considered interchangeably in the manner asserted by the Examiner, then there is still no disclosure or suggestion from Silverbrook of "drive electronics" and a "casing" which are separate from the printhead module 10/12, as is required by pending independent claim 1.

That is, either the chassis 14 of the printhead assembly 10 of Silverbrook is considered as the claimed "casing" which mounts the printhead modules 12 via the ink reservoir 16 (see col. 2, lines 6-16 of Silverbrook), in which case the printhead modules 12 must be considered to equate to the claimed "printhead module" such that only a single chip 18 is disclosed per printhead module, contrary to the claimed invention, OR the chassis 14 of the printhead assembly 10 is considered as the claimed "support member", in which case the printhead assembly 10 must be considered to equate to the claimed "printhead module" such that external drive electronics and a casing are not disclosed or suggested.

Thus, there is no interpretation of the disclosure of Silverbrook which can yield the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of pending claims 1-7 is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



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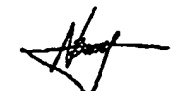
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Assignee: SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD
Our Ref: MPA20US

Total Number of Pages (including this) : 6

Please find enclosed a reply to the Final Office Action dated May 23, 2006, of Examiner
Brian J. Goldberg..

Yours sincerely,


Kia Silverbrook



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Encl.

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